

XLIV.—1904.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CEYLON.

NORTH-CENTRAL AND CENTRAL PROVINCES.

ANNUAL REPORT,

1899.

BY H. C. P. BELL, C.C.S.,

Archæological Commissioner.

Ordered by His Excellency the Governor to be Printed.



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PREAMBLE.

AS the outcome of the recommendations of the Commission appointed by His Excellency the Governor to report on means for facilitating the prosecution of the Archæological Survey,* the Commissioner's hands were strengthened from January, 1899, by the—

- (a) Increase of the vote for Archæological purposes to Rs. 40,000, exclusive of the Archæological Commissioner's salary.
- (b) Appointment of a European Labour Assistant.
- (c) Appointment as joint Epigraphists of Messrs. D. M. de Z. Wickramasinghe and B. Guṇasékara, Mudaliyār, Chief Sinhalese Translator to the Government.

With this much needed aid proportionate progress has been made this year. For the first time operations have been carried on simultaneously at two centres (Anurádhapura and Sígiriya); whilst preliminary work has been started in connection with the systematic publication of the ancient inscriptions of the Island on a scientific basis in an "*Epigraphia Zeylanica*."

Further, quarters and "coolly lines" are under construction at Topáwewa for occupation by half the force of the Archæological Survey next year. After the necessary annual cleaning of the ruins, &c., at Sígiriya in 1900 the Archæological Commissioner will, it is hoped, be able to move on to Polonnaruwa for four to five months and break ground at that ancient capital.

2.—CLEARING JUNGLE.

Of the annual vote (Rs. 4,000) for keeping down jungle growth from the extensive ruin-strewn area of Anurádhapura and its environs three-fourths was again allotted to the Archæological Commissioner. In all 654 acres were cleared and burnt at an average cost of Rs. 4.29.

The rapid growth of weeds and scrub demands that the areas near the Town† (*i.e.*, Abhayagiriya, Jétawanaráma, Toluvila, Mirisáwetiya, Séla Chaitiya, &c.) should be yearly cleared. In addition the Puliyanukulam ruins and "Elála Sohona" were included in the clearing done in 1899.

A sum of Rs. 625.15 was spent in felling trees and grubbing out stumps.

3.—EXCAVATIONS, &C.

At Anurádhapura half the labour force was uninterruptedly employed under Mr. C. E. Dashwood, Labour Assistant, in continuing excavations at—

- (i.) Ruwanveli Ruins.
- (ii.) Puliyanukulam Ruins.
- (iii.) "Elála Sohona."

(i.) Ruwanveli Ruins.

Most of the year was occupied in pushing excavations southward in the area slightly north-west of Ruwanveli Dágaba and below the eastern bund of Basawakkulam tank. Here ruined buildings were found in greater profusion and, on the whole, less tampered with than in the larger area stretching north as far as Thúpárama Dágaba. Yet the inconceivably wanton spoliation of a later day—which recked not to appropriate all that was best in old time buildings to form irregular patch-work congeries of mean monks' cells and accessories—is lamentably marked even among these more southerly ruins.

Excavations in the Thúpárama-Ruwanveli area had been extended in 1898 southwards to the cross east and west depression which emerges from the dry *wán-ēla* bed below Basawakkulam bund.

That the dip was originally a street is now placed beyond doubt by the past year's excavations to its south.

It was noted last year that the ruins to the west of Monastery D and across the diagonal street which strikes north-westwards from Ruwanveli Dágaba were entered on the south by a stone doorway through a brick wall bounding the north side of this cross street.

Twenty yards south of this wall and parallel to it a similar wall was opened up. This starts at a right angle eastwards from a revetment of dressed stone which appears to have held up a higher level strip running north to south along the tank bund. The brick wall must formerly have united with the kerb of the diagonal street near the north-west corner of the Dágaba's *petmaga*.

In this well-defined area (shut in on the east and north by the two streets above mentioned, by Basawakkulam bund to the west and the brick wall on the south‡) a closely clustered *coterie* of a dozen ruined sites has been exposed.

* See Appendix.

† For clearing purposes certain "Town limits" are defined, and this inner area dealt with by the Government Agent as Chairman of the Local Board.

‡ This brick wall runs so inconveniently close to the buildings on its north that it is very probably of later construction.

The crowded proximity in which they stand one to another and the enclosing walls is due to confined ground space, and perhaps accounts for the double type buildings—so far found here alone amongst the Thūpārāma-Ruwanvḍeli ruins.

This cluster was further divided by a walled passage into two sub-groups: (i.) the one facing east, (ii.) the other north, and both separated from the ruins excavated in 1898 by the depressed cross street.

(i.) The westerly lying ruins have suffered most destruction. The water in the *ēla* bed scouring round eastwards swept away a great part of (a) some site only distinguishable now by a pair of large vase-pattern terminals to steps (which have wholly disappeared), and a landing stone.

South of this site were at least three other buildings—(b), (c), (d).

Adjoining the passage which divides this group from the other an enclosure contains (c) a large building with (d) a smaller one behind it.

The main building (c) was entered from the east by stairs of plain steps, moonstone, terminals, and splayed balustrades. It was a thirty-six pillared building—probably a *pirivena*—stretching the whole width of the enclosure, 31 ft. by 39 ft. The basement was faced with vertical stone slabs, except at the porch where it is moulded. Of the curved *sedilia* parapet slabs—convenient back-rests for those seated on the portico—that to the left still remains upon the flag-stone above the steps. At the south-west corner of this building there was an extra portico roughly paved.

Through this exit the smaller ruin (d) was reached. This building stands well within the enclosing walls running back from (c). It fronts north, measures 23 ft. 6 in. east to west by 19 ft. 6 in., and was twelve-pillared. The care bestowed on its steps, ornamented with *Nāga* guardstones and *makara* balustrades, and on its delicately moulded brick basement, stamp it as in all probability a shrine. The lines of the brick moulding on the basement are exceptionally clean and well preserved.

(ii.) Between the passage and the brick wall to the south more than half a dozen buildings were exhumed. These almost without exception look north, and were approached through gateways in the south wall of the passage.

Brief description of the ruins of the group will fix their individuality.

Commencing from the east end—

(a) This ruin is 24 ft. square. Basement brick moulded, fairly perfect all round. Eleven stumps of the original twelve pillars left. The entrance was by four steps, sharply cut, of which guard-stones and balustrades are gone.

(b) Just off the north-east corner of (a), at right angles there was some ruin of which only the south-west portion is left. On the west is a door sill *in situ*.

(c) West of (a) is a large site which measures north to south 45 ft., east to west 51 ft. 6 in. Of the north entrance nothing remains but a plain moonstone. At the south-east and south-west corners were provided two other entrances of three steps with plain moonstones and guardstones. The interior was arranged as a hall—possibly for a *bana-maduwa*—with a verandah all round. The building seems to have been supported by thirty-six pillars, twenty ranged round the outermost wall and sixteen for the inner room.

Beyond (c), further west, is a double-roomed structure (d, e) united by a gangway.

The larger and front room (d) (north) stood on a basement faced (except on the south) by plain dressed slabs like building (c) of the other group (i.). This part of the building has been wholly despoiled of its facing, except on the west. It measures 47 ft. east to west by 24 ft. 6 in. in depth. The entrance must have been from the north, but not a trace of the steps remain.

It is united to (e) the back room by a landing mounted, east and west, by narrow steps, each with a single small plain guardstone. The basement of this room was of moulded brickwork, now hardly apparent, and to match its lines the south side of (d) was similarly moulded in stone. Room (e) measures 39 ft. 6 in. by 31 ft.

Impinging on the west wall of (d) is a confined enclosure (f) vertically stone-walled. In the centre stood a small shrine, 8 ft. 7 in. square, on a pediment chastely moulded in stone, but of which nothing but the plinth has been spared. Against its east wall outside was found fixed in the ground part of a “lotus altar” carved delicately in stone. The flower capital is gone; even its ornamented curling “stalk,” tenoned on the top, is broken in two.* The walled enclosure which shut in this little fane was also entered from the north.

Slightly south-west, jostling the south boundary wall, are two more buildings (g, h) made one by a gangway.

Of (h), which lies west of (g) united to it by a landing at its south-east corner, merely the site exists, measuring about 43 ft. by 20 ft. Walls and pillars have entirely disappeared. This gangway landing also had steps up and down, but from north and south.

The connected building (g) once had twenty-four stone pillars, but all are now broken. The basement measured 37 ft. 6 in. from east to west and 30 ft. down the sides. The regular entrance on the north consisted of four steps with plain volute balustrades rising from a semi-circular moonstone. The guardstones are plain: that to the left bears on its face a few letters in old Tamil writing.

(i) North of (h) is the best finished and best preserved building of the entire series. Like all the others south of the passage, it was entered from the north. A flight of four steps, flanked by a pair of *makara* balustrades and guardstones of the *makara* type, mount to a portico floored with a single stone 12 ft. 2 in. by 7 ft. and faced by moulded slabs. This trim portico was supported on four pillars 6 in. square. On either side of its doorway are tiny balustrades carved on the wings before a threshold flag. The building measures 36 ft. 6 in. on its front and 30 ft. north to south.

In front of this building were uncovered a conglomeration of stones, carved and rough—doorposts, slabs, bits of pillars, an incised stone basin, &c.—*disjecta membra* of the surrounding ruins.

The passage between the two groups of ruins did not run straight: it shows a sharp bend opposite building (h); its trend further east is lost. At its west termination the passage communicated by steps with the raised ground bordering Basawakkulam tank.

* This has been removed to the local Museum premises. A piece of a similar conventionalized lotus-stalk shaft was unearthed at the Abhayagiriya ruins (Section II.) in 1892. A choice and perfect specimen of these “stone lotuses” may be seen on the left of the east stairs to the Ruwanvḍeli Dāgaba *maluwa*.

(ii.) Puliyankulam Ruins.

Towards the close of the year the whole force was concentrated at Bandāra Puliyankulama, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Town, in order to complete the excavation of the remaining ruins within the *prākāra*, or limitary walls, of the extensive Buddhist monastery situated to the east of the Jaffna road.

The ruins to the north of the quadrangle which contains the three viharés and dāgaba (disposed of in 1896 and 1897) having been worked off last year, attention was directed to the sites to its south and the numerous *piriven* ranged round the sacred temenos in double lines on all four sides.

This *sanghārāma* (as previously pointed out), in regard to its raised stone-banked quadrangle and the surrounding monks' residences, reproduces the "Vijayārāma" Monastery, though on a larger scale. A similar *gal pahura* (outer stone slab wall) with a *diyā-gala* (moat) encompassing the square temenos and its off-lying *piriven*—here thirty-two in all or double the "Vijayārāma" complement; a *mura-gé* on the south giving entrance through the exterior wall to the street leading direct to the southern porch (*doratuwa*) of the quadrangle; and one special building off the street on either hand.

These last two ruins, to right and left, offer some difference from the corresponding edifices at "Vijayārāma." This divergence is explainable by the existence of the later period buildings adjoining the *Pilima-gé* on the north.

Mura-gé.

The entrance porch of the monastery stands on a low platform, broadest at back and front and about 38 ft. square, faced with plain rectangular dressed slabs. Like most of these *mura-géwal*, it projects about one-third from the outermost wall line. Plain centrally placed steps flanked by splay-cut balustrades and guardstones, and with a moonstone of "cocked-hat shape" at foot, mount the open platform.

The basement of the walled porch itself was built of brick moulded as ordinarily, and is well preserved in places. The roof was apparently supported on fourteen roughly scapped pillars, all but two flush with the side walls. As usual there was a passage from front to back, passing through a small vestibule. The building measured about 31 ft. by 24 ft.: on either side steps lead in and out. Within there is a small square at the north-west corner which may have been the base of stairs to an upper wooden storey. Only one pillar 9 ft. in height is standing.

The steps at the back of the platform are similar to those in front, except for an oblong slab in lieu of a moonstone.

Building No. 2.

About 25 yards up the street on the east is situated a ruin resembling in position and front façade the *pirivena*, or *pansala*, at "Vijayārāma." Facing west, it has three sets of perron steps as entrances. The uncarved guardstones are nearly round at top with but faint indications of arises; the balustrades are splayed at an obtuse angle, and the moonstone is plain. The brick basement of the building, which measures 68 ft. north and south by 57 ft. cross ways, shows the usual moulding.

Once inside the building the comparison ceases. Instead of a *pansala* on twenty-four pillars, an airy edifice supported by sixty-eight pillars was revealed by excavation. The pillars, 8 ft. 6 in. high, were nicely squared; only one stands whole. The unusual number and grouping of the pillars formed a collonade 21 ft. in width round a central stone-flagged space 25 ft. square sunk below the floor level of the quadrangle enclosing it. The sides of this paved "yard," which was probably open to the sky, are rectangularly moulded.*

Between the first and second rows of pillars behind the entrance from the most southerly steps the floor is stone paved. More than one slab is noticeable in the building scooped into basin form. A door sill at the south may fix the position of a wooden staircase to upper rooms, or balcony.

Building No. 3.

West of this building across the street near the southern boundary wall of the monastery is an oblong site once fully pillared, but of which only three remain whole, all rough.

This ruin was expected to prove, as at "Vijayārāma," to be the *jantāghara*, until the building (No. 2) had been laid bare to the east.*

It is highly probable that these two ruins were, in fact, at first respectively (No. 2) the chief *Pirivena* and (No. 3) the sole equivalent of the "Vijayārāma" building (whatever its purpose) for the use of the entire Puliyankulama monastic establishment. Later, when convenience induced the erection of *piriven* and a bath-house adjoining the *Pilima-gé* to the north of the quadrangle, the large *Pirivena* near the *mura-gé* would not unnaturally be converted into a commodious *bhājana sālawa*, and the less suitable building opposite utilized for some other object.

The small *pokuna* close by was doubtless improvised at the same time to supply water more readily; and the much larger *pokuna* on the north of the monastery formed to meet the wants of the *piriven* on that side, including those specially erected near the *pilima-gé*.

Piriven.

To the two and thirty *piriven*, or lesser *pansal*, which surround the quadrangle enclosing dāgaba and viharés, one general description will apply.

All were twelve-pillared buildings, standing upon low moulded basements of brick, 26 ft. square. They were entered by one set of projecting steps with the usual adjuncts, all plainly finished.

The whole double-line series faced inwards towards the raised temenos. Of the outer row of twenty, six on the west, and a like number to the east, fronted each other; as did the remaining eight north and south. Similarly, the eight *piriven* east and west and the four on the north and south of the inner line were balanced by one another. In all the sixteen *piriven* facing east (ten) and south (six) the small paved spaces—perhaps for wooden staircase mounting to the upper storey—were placed at the left back corner from the entrance; whereas for the moiety which faced west and north it stood in the corresponding corner on the right.

* The similarly appointed buildings at "Vijayārāma" (Annual Report, 1891, p. 4), Abhayagiriya, and Paṅkuliya (Annual Report, 1892, pp. 3, 5) have been described as *jantāghara*, "hot water baths"—a supposition helped by the discovery of fireplaces. On the other hand the absence of steps, and other points (*e.g.*, the difficulty of supplying hot water for such pacious "baths"), militate against the theory. It is perhaps more reasonable to presume that these semi-hypethral buildings were "alms houses" (*dān sāl*) or refectories (*bhājana sālā*). Cf. Annual Report, 1893, p. 2.

In addition to the four immediate main approaches to the Monastery from the cardinal points across the moat the *piriven* were inter-connected by cross by-paths.*

Throughout this excellently planned *sángharáma*, as in the case of its lesser counterpart at "Vijayaráma," all was laid out with a mathematical precision worthy of unstinted admiration. These *piriven* stand exactly one behind the other, at equal distance from the quadrangle.

Other Ruins.

Outhouses, &c., as might be expected, occur at several points.

Among the south-east *pirivena* was constructed, perhaps later, a couple of extra buildings of some size, one facing north, the other west. These were partially stone flagged, and obviously fitted as lavatories.

On the outskirts of the monastery to the east attached to the exterior wall is a stone-bounded site, at which was erected a series of six monks' cells, three in a line, with possibly a similar set facing.

(iii.) "Elála Sohona."

It was popularly asserted that ruined buildings existed on the semi-truncated summit of "Elála Sohona." Excavations to settle the point were temporarily resumed. This surmise has been proved erroneous.

A considerable portion of the summit was dug down to the level of solid brick forming a flattish pavement.

Deeper cutting revealed bricks laid in step form, each successive course projecting gradually outwards towards the sides of the Dágaba bonding the structure effectively.

At the centre was exposed a vertical mass of brick, roughly square (38 ft.). This was manifestly the base of the *hatares kotuwa* of the Dágaba.

From this run brick walls radiating somewhat indefinitely towards the slopes of the Dágaba, and presumably intended to support the central *tee*, the interspaces being tightly filled by brick *débris*.

Nearing the edge these walls are arrested by portions of an arc of solid brickwork—the tyre, so to say, of a wheel to which the *tee* was the hub and the radiating groins the spokes.

All spoil was thrown down the north and east cuttings, and afterwards removed to the swampy ground† near the *ex-hospital* wards proposed for conversion into a local Museum.

During the course of work at the foot of "Elála Sohona" several limestone *karandu* ("relic-caskets") came to light in the spoil. They were all empty.

4.—CONSERVATION OF RUINS.

(i.) Jetawanarama-Lankarama Area.‡

After five years' protracted negotiations between the Government Agent and landowners this long-standing question has been closed. The very extensive area, covering nearly 320 acres in all, is now transferred to the charge of the Archæological Commissioner as Crown Reservation. It is thickly dotted with ruins, and includes the Jétawanaráma and "Lankaráma" Dágabas.§

(ii.) "Elála Sohona."

A well-defined area, which touches the Anurádhapura-Kurunégala road on the east, embracing the mound and sufficient space round its tree-covered slopes for picturesque effect, was marked off for conservation.||

5.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ola Manuscripts.

Copies of nine palm leaf manuscripts were transcribed during the year for the Oriental Library, Colombo Museum, from original books procured by the Archæological Commissioner in the North-Central and North-Western Provinces.¶

6.—CENTRAL PROVINCE.

MÁTALE DISTRICT.

Sigiriya.

Operations were re-opened at Sigiriya for the fourth season in February, and were carried on for nearly eight months.

This year the Sigiriya force was purposely kept down to a moderate limit (tried hands being selected), so as to allow of a duplicate gang remaining to work at Anurádhapura under the Labour Assistant.

An exceptionally wet season affected the health of the labour force at Sigiriya. During the eight months February to September the rainfall amounted to 30 inches (29.96); but two-thirds of this total is to be credited to April (19.67). It rained every day from 23rd March to 17th April, inclusive, and 22.52 of rain fell. Such abnormal weather during these two months has been unknown to the oldest villagers. Sigiri-veva "spilled" strongly into the minor road between the tank bund and the cooly lines. This presented the unprecedented sight of a stream a foot deep running for a week or more. The Inamalawa-Sigiriya road was quite impassable for days, and little work could be done anywhere.

* In old days the Puliyaikulam Monastery was reached from Anurádhapura by the ancient road to Mihintalé, which ran from the Jétawanaráma Monasteries eastwards, crossing the Halpánu-ēla and Malwaṭu-oya by bridges, and reaching the Monastery on the south (Annual Report, 1891, p. 2).

† This area is being gradually levelled up, and will be utilized to receive the heavier stone exhibits.

‡ Annual Report, 1894, p. 7; 1895, p. 9.

§ Government Agent, North-Central Province, No. 1382/216 of November 9, 1899.

|| Archæological Commissioner, No. 826 of December 16, 1899.

¶ Administration Report, Colombo Museum, 1899.

Death claimed five victims in 1899, or a dozen hands in two years. Of this number all but one or two succumbed to fever and pneumonia, induced by unavoidable exposure on the wind-blown slopes of the Rock and the damp makeshift lines.

A mild case of incipient smallpox showed itself last. The patient was at once sent to Dambulla; his and the adjoining lines were burnt down, and the rest thoroughly disinfected. Had the disease spread in the neighbouring villages the result would have been serious.

Mr. Perera, Head Draughtsman, was able to resume work at Sígiriya this year; but his recovery has been slow.

Summary of Work done in 1899.

(i.) *Clearing*.—The confines of *Sígiri-nuwara* east of the Rock, as well as the Mapá-gala Rocks to the south, were re-cleared of brush and tall weeds, and a further belt of forest trees felled below the Rock on the west, so as to permit of an unbroken view of its full length on that face.

(ii.) *Survey Work*.—The survey plan of *Sígiri-nuwara* was extended to cover the Mápá-gala Rocks, and a connection was made with Pidurágala hill (a mile to the north), which was contoured. Another group of ruins not far from the Sígiriya-Kimbissa road were also surveyed. Further, numerous additional levels were taken both below, and upon, the Rock to ascertain its sections from north to south and crossways.

(iii.) *Excavations*.—This comprised the digging up of the spaces circumjacent to the "Audience Hall," "Cistern," and other Rocks clustered at the foot of the gallery stairways; the removal of the silt from a score or more of cave shelters beneath the "Preaching Rock" and other large boulders within the confines of the inner city; and the laying bare to the original surface of the three or four forest-clad "islands" of the city.

(iv.) *Miscellaneous*.—Improving, and extending, the means of access to the Rock's summit and summit slopes, to the gallery, and to special rocks; and continuing essential restoration work in the gallery, &c.

(i.) *Clearing*.

Clearing was carried up to the Rock on the west, and round its base north and south as far as the outer slopes of the ramp enclosing the east side of the city. The path from Sígiriya to Pidurágala village bisects this eastern area, which is some 54 acres in extent—the greater portion "annexed" by villagers and chenaed prior to 1895.

The clearing of this *landa* of eight to ten years' growth—a dense network of tall close thorn, creepers, and scrub—taxed the efforts of a large force of villagers for weeks. All cut jungle was burnt in July to August.

It will now suffice for the future if the old city (*i.e.*, all within the *vil-bemma* enceinte*) is re-cleared once in two or three years.

The felling of the large trees immediately below the Rock on the south and west in 1895 had so vastly improved the general view that it was decided this year to cut back the forest fringe still further. The result has fully justified the extra labour. Not alone is the towering Rock itself thrown into bolder and more striking relief by uncramped view across the wide belt of open ground, but the details of its weather-worn scarp and "fresco pockets" are now brought well within range of a field glass. In addition, the removal of trees has opened out in the inner city the majority of the most interesting detached boulders whereon buildings once stood—from the "Cistern" and "Audience Hall" Rocks on the south-west to the clustered group situated to the north-west of Sígiri-gala, among which the so-called "Preaching Rock" is prominent.

(ii.) *Survey Work*.

(a) *Mápá-gala Rocks*.—These lie directly south of the bund of the small tank which now connects them with Sígiri-gala. In former days, when the great Sígiri-veva stretched back from the high bund which extends from the Mápá-gala Rocks to the hills near Kandalama, the area covered by the present tank was probably within the city confines.†

The northern rock, about 11 acres in extent, is, like Sígiri-gala, higher on the west, the eastern half being similarly flat but cramped by boulders. Steps, and other traces of ancient occupation, exist.

A narrow gorge with central rock, probably once bridged, separates this from the more southerly rock, which is much smaller (5 acres). Its sides are steep. On the summit stood some brick-built structure, now a jungle-bound mound.

(b) A few extra ruins were discovered west of the isolated monastery off the Sígiriya-Inamalawa road to the south. It is very likely that there are still more under forest in the neighbourhood, and that all formed part of one *sanghárāma*.

A short inscribed pillar of the 10th century relating to "*Mahaná-pav Vehere*" was discovered in the neighbourhood.‡

No plan of Sígiri-nuwara would be complete without the inclusion of Pidurá-gala. The hill was contoured at its base, the survey carried north from *Sígiri-nuwara* to the existing temple, and the summit with the ancient viharé connected.

(iii.) *Excavations*.

The "Cistern" and "Audience Hall" Rocks are familiar to all visitors to Sígiriya. In reality they are the two halves of an immense single boulder, cleft vertically east and west by some mighty convulsion.

"Cistern Rock."

The southern half (69 ft. by 41 ft.) stands firm, and on its top is the beautifully cut cistern, part rock sunk, part slab walled, 16 ft. by 8 ft. and 5 ft. 7 in. in depth. It may have been a bath: there are steps for descent and an escape conduit down the north face of the rock.

* This encloses 230 acres and upwards round *Sígiri-gala*.

† A low bund has been traced from the south-east end of the existing tank for 1½ mile eastwards. A similar bund runs parallel to it from the north-east corner of the *vil-bemma* on the east of Sígiri-gala. Both terminate in a cross ridge of rising ground.

‡ This, and the pillar inscription of Sena II. (Annual Report, 1897, p. 13), have been erected within the Resthouse premises at Sígiriya.

“Audience Hall Rock.”

The north half of the original boulder, 60 ft. by 37 ft., when it split away fell on its rounded outer face forming overhanging shelter, which was converted into three rock-roofed rooms by cross walls. The top was incised and smoothly levelled, a handsome moulded *gal-ásanaya* cut at its west end (15 ft. 10 in. by 7 ft. 10 in. and 1 ft. 9 in. high), and seats (ovolo backed) along the raised sides. The rest was railed off from the central portion.* The rock was mounted at the south-east end by a flight of limestone steps.†

A thick brick wall with a central gateway united the “Cistern Rock” with the “guard-house” boulder directly below the southern approach staircase to the gallery, and shut off from the south the terrace on which the “Audience Hall Rock” stands. Behind the latter (north-west) are further boulders; and between it and the “Cistern Rock” is a gorge passage leading to the caves below both rocks. The ground round the base of “Audience Hall Rock” was dug this year. Several sets of steps leading here and there were uncovered.

The northern end of the long terrace adjoining the “Cistern Rock” (south) was also excavated to a depth of 8 ft. or more to expose the rocks and walls down to the former ground level. This terrace in all probability held buildings; and there may have been an approach by a steep ascent (now slid down and buried under an avalanche of rubble stone and *débris*) on to its south termination near the present tank.

Storage Tank.

Towards the south end of the Great Rock’s west face a long ribbon-like groove may be noticed cut perpendicularly down the cliff. Exploration of the west slope of the Rock’s summit showed this smooth “streak” to be the vertical discharge of the main drain (1 ft. 6 in. deep) of the Citadel on that side. It was led along from the northern end to this point so as to divert and carry off the rush of rain water which would otherwise have seriously inconvenienced the occupants of the terrace below the gallery.

It is obvious that the volume of water could not have been allowed to run to waste, much less to slump down, on to the approach to gallery and terraces on the south. Some proper exit, or reservoir, must have existed if only to prevent inevitable damage in rainy weather. The *maná*-covered terrace at the south-west of the Rock, and on a level with the gallery floor, offered the most likely solution; and furnished it.

Excavations disclosed in the middle of this a storage tank 42 ft. square inside, brick-walled, 4 ft. 8 in. in depth, and paved with 18 inch bricks. The walls are 3 ft. 6 in. wide, and are strengthened by a rubble backing three or four yards in thickness. A single drain passes through the west wall; and it is hardly rash to surmise that the bath on “Cistern Rock” was supplied by an overhead aqueduct led across the four intervening terraces.

Caves.

Under the overhanging boulders which crowd the western side of the inner city are found at least a score of caves, mostly fronting west: some lofty and fairly commodious, others low roofed and cramped. All have been once occupied and put to various uses. The roofs of many of the caves were once painted. Above caves Nos. 6, 9, 10, 12, 16, 20, and 21 are found single line inscriptions.

Cave No. 1, beneath “Cistern Rock,” is small and low. Its rock floor (12 ft. by 9 ft.) has been cut level, leaving a moulded *ásanaya* (6 ft. by 4 ft.) against the back (east) face of the boulder, in line with the entrance from the west.

This *ásanaya* is shut off from the two open sides of the cave north and west by a low kerb wall 1 ft. 7 in. in height. This was ornamented with ovolo and other mouldings, and like the *ásanaya* carved from the live rock.

Cave No. 2.—Under “Audience Hall Rock,” opposite and close to cave No. 1. It was bricked in by a semi-circular wall with narrow entrance at the centre.

These two caves are reached by the narrow passage descending between “Cistern Rock” and “Audience Hall Rock.” After the fall of Sígiri-nuwara they served as a small Buddhist shrine and pansala.‡

Caves Nos. 3, 4.—The north-east end of “Audience Hall Rock” is divided by cross walls and underlying rock into two other caves, low roofed and small.§

Caves Nos. 5, 6.—Thirty yards north are caves Nos. 5 and 6. These lie below the west face of the continuous boulders between which rises the first of the several flights of steps forming the northern stairway to the “gallery.” No. 6 once owned a limestone *ásanaya*.

Caves Nos. 7, 8.—These caves are under a boulder at a slightly lower level and some yards further north-west. Cave No. 7 was closed in front by a cusp-line brick wall, with entrances.

Caves Nos. 9, 10.—Behind the “Cistern” and “Audience Hall” Rocks are two towering boulders. Their west face provides two caves (Nos. 9, 10)—the former below an almost vertical rock face, in part somewhat resembling a gigantic cobra.

Cave No. 9 was manifestly used as a viharé. On its high horizontal roof are still to be seen portions of a painted *viyan-redda*, or awning, of handsome design, which once overspread an image of Buddha in the manner seen at many a rock temple at this day.¶

Cave No. 10.—The pansala. On the north is parted from No. 9 by rock. A worn inscription of the early centuries A.D. is on its brow.

Caves Nos. 11, 12.—North-west of these rocks is another immense boulder. Under its east side there is a strange cave (No. 11) half under ground. The roof is horizontal and so low that the cave had to be excavated, walled round, and entered by steps like a bath. This it may have been, and the built chamber at back a dressing-room.

On the other side of the boulder west is a spacious cave (No. 12) which was converted into three rooms, one large and two small, by front and cross walls of brick. The headless trunk of a standing

*The mortices for rails are distinct. The hall was most ingeniously rendered oblong by beams and flooring at its north-east corner, supported by masonry built up from the ground below. Here is a second stone *ásanaya* fronting south.

†These have been restored, and the damaged *gal-ásanaya* repaired.

‡Images were exhumed.

§On rock near No. 4 is the remnant of some spirited painting.

¶This painting has been copied in oils.

Buddha (*hiti-pilime*) unearthed in its centre room confirmed the object of the cave—a viharé with monks' cells on either side—suggested by the ruined *wata-dá-gé* and *dágaba* near on the west.

Dágaba.—In front of cave No. 10 near the wall of the inner city was erected a small *dágaba* upon a rock, when the cave was occupied as a viharé. The *maḷuwa* of the *dágaba* was made square (36 ft.) by a revetment of rubble stone 6 ft. 8 in. in height, and was mounted on the west by a narrow flight of fifteen steps. The diameter of the ruined *dágaba* at base is 14 ft. 4 in., and of the bell 11 ft. 4 in. Its plinth is moulded. The *dágaba* had long been gutted.

Wata-dá-gé.—A little south of the *dágaba* are the remains of a small *wata-dá-gé*. The circular wall surrounding the shrine is 36 ft. 6 in. in diameter. The sole entrance is on the north. In the centre of the circle was built a moulded platform nearly 14 ft. square, which once supported a small *dágaba* with square base only 4 ft. 3 in. each way. Like the *dágaba*, the *wata-dá-gé* was destroyed and rifled many years ago.

Caves Nos. 13, 14, 15.—These occur at a small bunch of rocks to the west of caves Nos. 10 and 11. At this point was a subsidiary entrance to the citadel from a street which started at the most easterly of the two gateways through the city's southern rampart.

Caves Nos. 13 and 15 are of no account.

Cave No. 14 seems to have been a "watch-cave." Excavation laid bare a stout brick wall shutting it in south, and steps descending to it on the west from more low rocks in the line of the inner city's *enceinte*. An *ásanaya* (9 ft. by 5 ft.) cut in limestone with rounded back moulded on the lines of the granite *ásana* on, and near, "Audience Hall Rock," is built against the rock under sheltered by its beetling rock, rising 27 ft.

Some distance north of these caves, near the north-west angle of the confines of the citadel, stands a gigantic single boulder, only scaleable now by ladder.* At its foot on the west there is a square banked *pokuna* with remains of a dressing-room beneath the rock.

Cave No. 16.—The slightly concave lower face of the tall boulder north-east furnished a shallow cave (No. 16) brick-walled. A record of the same date as that at cave No. 10 is cut on the rock to the left.

Caves Nos. 17-23.—The remaining caves are situated north-east amid the cluster of large boulders, of which "Preaching Rock" is the most northerly.

Three boulders in one line partially overlapping each other, with smaller rock upon them, supply three caves.

At the south-west end of these boulders is cave No. 17, not dissimilar to No. 16, but more elaborated.

Cave No. 18 is entered from a gorge on the north-west made by the trio of boulders and another to the west, walled and roofed by rock at the entrance and a single crevice. This roomy elongated cave affords the most perfect shelter.

Cave No. 19.—Steps from the south-east mount to this cave, which is also rock bound. It is formed by the second and third boulders and another above, and is on a higher level than the other two caves. The buildings which crowned these boulders were reached through it by stairs. Being open at both ends it may have been connected with "Preaching Rock" and the other caves, &c., on that side.

The "Preaching Rock" lies a few yards north-east of these last boulders. Its northern side is vertical and scarred with chess-board lines, and the sloping east face carved into seats grooved, and pitted with mortices for the erection of whatever form of structure occupied it. The high west face projects enough to allow of two cave shelters beneath it.

Caves Nos. 20, 21.—Both were walled on their front like others. Cave No. 20 has an inscription in the oldest form of cave characters below its brow, 23 ft. from the floor level. The record on cave No. 21 is reversed, *i.e.*, read from right to left.

Under the boulders to the south-west and west of "Preaching Rock" there are two or three minor caves, and the grooved site of a large oblong building on flat rock.

Islands.

There were five moated islands within *Sigiri-nuwara*.

The chief approach to the city was from the west. After passing through the *piṭa-bemma* and the *mura-gé* (guard house) in the *ádára-bemma*, it crossed the *diyágala* (moat) by a wooden bridge on stone abutments to a second *mura-gé* at the *vil-bemma*. Some 40 yards on the road united with a walled enclosure which surrounded a moated island.

Island No. 1.—This island had four approaches from the cardinal points by wooden bridges thrown across brick-winged abutments, so as to give free waterway for boats everywhere round the island. Later the ruins of these abutments and silt gradually formed natural causeways.

The bridge abutments ran into the quadrangular wall of the island. The space enclosed was raised some feet above the approaches, and was entered north, south, east, and west by broad limestone steps.

What stood above ground inside this square cannot be even guessed with much probability. Just below ground level was uncovered a veritable network of shallow narrow drains. As there are traces of brick pavement, but practically none of walls within the island, it may be assumed that the buildings were of wooden construction—not improbably open pillared and tiled pavilions of a pleasure garden.

Outside the walled enclosure was certainly a broad walk at a lower level, skirting the marge of the moat. On to this outer space steps led down from the quadrangle at different points.

This island with its still moat fringed by large trees of varied and beautiful foliage is one of the most picturesque spots within the ancient city.

From the further side of the moat after traversing the island a broad street, walled on both sides and about 25 yards in breadth, ran directly east for 150 yards more until it reached the entrance (*doraṭuwa*) to the inner city at a third *mura-gé*.

Island No. 2 is situated south-east of No. 1. It was formed almost entirely of rock. A moat 260 ft. by 216 ft. surrounds the rock, except on the south-west, where a narrow spur runs

* Mortice holes prove that some building stood on the top of this boulder also.

due south for 60 yards in the direction of island No. 3. The island may have been entered on the west over a bridge, in addition to the approach along the spur by a walled passage, the foundation of which rested in two parallel grooves cut in the rock.

The island has been constructed on an extensive rock hummock (apparently very similar to a sister hummock lying south-east of it): the east face, steep, falling away westward and necessitating the other three sides being built up of cut stone (large rubble) in a batter ramp. The washaways on south, west, and north leave the lines of this ramp uncertain, the stones only peeping out here and there; but the north-east corner abutting on to the bare rock stretching along the east face is more free of *débris*, and proves that the ramp had three tiers at least.

Trenches dug on the island exposed a rectangularly walled enclosure, 120 ft. by 90 ft. north and south.

At the centre stood a large oblong building of which only the barest traces remain. The building was paved with brick, and was entered from the east by a couple of limestone steps with a moonstone at foot.

Round this building were found, about 3 ft. apart, square brick built pedestals with mortice holes, evidently to support wooden posts, twelve on each side of the centre building. Close inside the enclosure walls are like pedestals. The whole interspace between the outer wall and the building may possibly have been roofed in.

Immediately east of the building at the centre of the island, but outside the enclosure was a second building, entered from the west by similar limestone steps. This building resting on the rock throughout had very shallow foundations. It ran back on the east some 12 ft. down the rock's slope, and in front (west) had a narrow verandah.

Island No. 3 lies south of No. 2, near the southern side of the *vil-bemma*. It may have been circular in shape, the diameter each way now being 212 ft.

The squared moat surrounding this island extended 273 ft. in length from east to west, by 260 ft. north to south. The moat is greatly silted. The four present causeways admitting to the island vary in width, that on the south being much the widest, and in length from 25 ft. to 30 ft. This island yielded nothing tangible to digging.

Island No. 4, north-east of island No. 1, is the best preserved of the five islands. It lies between the present paths to Pidurá-gala temple (east) and Talkote village (west).

This island is banked up on three sides by a revetment of small cut stone, giving a width of about 20 ft. to the bottom of its batter slope. It is oblong, the flat surface measuring 228 ft. north and south by 175 ft. east and west. The island is probably based on rock to a great extent and squared up by the stone ramp; for its south-east side rests upon a *galpota*, or outcrop of flat rock. The moat skirts the west and north faces of the island entirely, the other sides but partially. It varies considerably in width—from 55 ft. to 116 ft.

The raised level of the island on the south-east rises from the *galpota*. Its stone-faced revetment is but 6 ft. to 12 ft. high. No entrance steps were unearthed; but the island was most accessible at this point, and the entrance was probably through a portico now only marked by a few stones.

Cross trenches run from end to end proved disappointing. These struck outline walls (only 1 ft. thick, and three courses high) of three small oblong enclosures, two (A, B) paved with brick, the third (C) unpaved. A quantity of fragments show the buildings erected here were tile-roofed. They may have been mere open "pavilions." The west wall connecting the three is a covered single brick drain which is carried uncovered through the paved floor of A, B. C has a drain out of its south-east corner, and a portion (covered) runs north.

This island is freely wooded, and the further bank of the moat lined with fine *ehatu* and *timbiri* trees.

Island No. 5.—This is situated towards the northern side of the *vil-bemma*. As far as can now be traced—for it has been breached by water-courses—the island resembled No. 3 in being of a circular form about 210 ft. in diameter.

The quadrangular moat surrounding it measures approximately 270 ft. north and south by 228 ft. east and west. The only two causeways traceable owing to silt are 15 ft. in width and 24 ft. in breadth.

(iv.) *Miscellaneous.*

Restoration Work.—(i.) In 1898 the restoration of the outer retaining wall of the southern approach to the "gallery" was carried to a sufficient height to ensure its safety. This year the inner wall was partially rebuilt, the isolated south head of the "gallery" freed of *débris*, and its pavement reset.

(ii.) The steps, which originally terminated the "gallery's" tortuous course up to the Rock's summit, when uncovered were seen to be in imminent danger of sliding down. As this is the only safe point of ascent from the narrow rock grooves which formerly held the "gallery's" foundations their prompt preservation was essential.

This staircase has been well secured; steps straightened; a high vertical wall built on to the left; and a strong batter wall to the right.

The stairs were then carried down by a right-angled extension with wing-walls and iron foot-rests below, to join the grooves at the point where the protection of the hand-rail begins.

(iii.) The cramped landing at the head of the two ladders, and the awkward and somewhat dangerous turn to the diagonal grooves above, were rendered absolutely safe by heightening and arching the iron railing on the edge of the Rock.

(iv.) The ladders to the summit can only be reached by scrambling up the hillside through *mána* grass, loose stones, and broken brick. The "gallery" extends for about a hundred yards, practically sound as of old, and for another fifty feet or so as a wall-less causeway, narrow and dangerous. Along the "gallery" it is impossible to get beyond the north-west corner of the Rock; and the condition of the ruined stairs on the north (separated from the western stretch by a wide gap) makes it equally impossible to utilize that portion of the old "gallery."

The restoration of the "gallery" from its north-west end commenced this year.

The laying of a cement-concrete bed in the rock-cut grooves for the foundations of the new half-wall (to replace the fallen wall) involved constant risk to life and great labour; but was safely accomplished by the end of the season.

It was necessary to make three sets of borings—first, in the rock wall for iron rings to sling planks down the face of the scarp; second, for jumpers to strengthen the concrete bed; third, to fix stout iron rods to support scaffolding for the masons to rebuild the floor and wall of the “gallery” upwards. The foundations of the “gallery” at this end are from 10 to 15 feet below the level of the floor; above which a wing-wall will have to be raised.

(v.) The fallen steps mounting to “Audience Hall” and “Cistern” Rocks were renewed; and iron hand-rails fixed at the latter and “Preaching Rock.”

Pidura-gala.

This prominent rocky hill lies about a mile north of Sígiri-gala. Its connection with *Sigiri-nuwara* during the reign of Kásyapa IV. (479–497 A.D.) must have been very close. It probably stood to that city much in the relation of the sacred Mihintalé hills to Anurádhapura.

There was then, as now, in existence on Pidurá-gala a Buddhist temple which satisfied the immediate pious needs of the countryside, though it could never have rivalled Dambulla. It was probably one of the viháres which the parricide king in his contrition is related to have richly endowed.*

To this day, directly below the overhanging brow of the hilltop along its east face, are to be seen the remains of the old temple—the “*Parana viháré*” of the villagers, as distinguished from the more modern and existing temple premises (“*Alut viháré*”).

These nestle at the foot of the hill on the west amid boulders once occupied by eremite monks. From this point the ascent is made to the ruined viháré and the summit. There is no regular path up now, but the line of the old rough stairway is followed through a grove of *ná* trees (*Messua ferrea*)—evidence of the sacred antiquity of the site.

Nothing is left of the ancient viháré and cave *pansala* of the monks except portions of walls in rubble and clay, of three or four rooms, rock-roofed and adjoining one another—the brick-built side walls flanking a colossal *seta-pilima* (recumbent figure) of Buddha, clay formed—and a shallow *gal-wala*, or rock cistern.

The image is now faceless, but otherwise still in fair preservation. It measures 46 ft. 8 in. in length from head to foot, and is 9 ft. in height to the left shoulder. All the caves open upon a wide stone-banked terrace, from which the view eastwards is interrupted only by the not far distant *Gal-linda-kanda* range traditionally connected with “*Hat Rajuruvó*” (King Mahá Sena) and his romantic wanderings. On the rock’s summit are two small ruined mounds of brick and earth *débris*, either *dágabas* or *sohon*.

7.—STAFF.

The appointment of Mr. C. E. Dashwood as Labour Assistant from January 1, 1899, has at last afforded the Archæological Commissioner some relief in the conduct of the Archæological Survey.

But, with work carried on simultaneously at two sites during nine months of the year, the Head of the Department cannot but be still unduly hampered by having to personally attend to the countless petty details, mechanical and other, essential to direct daily supervision of field work and immediate charge of the labour force.

H. C. P. BELL,
Archæological Commissioner.

APPENDIX.†

Report of the Commission on the Archæological Survey.

THE Committee were instructed to consider the whole question of the Archæological Survey of Ceylon. To the two points—(i.) the system, and (ii.) the extent to which it should be pursued—the Committee directed their recommendations.

(i.) System hitherto adopted.

The work consists of two parts, survey and excavation. The former head includes as “Circuit Work” exploring, examining, mapping, and describing ancient sites and making copies of ancient inscriptions outside main centres of operation.‡

The method has been, by searching systematically certain areas, to ascertain exhaustively what ruins it contains; then thoroughly to dig up and remove the soil by which they may be covered, and—in some cases—to “re-set” the structure.

Restoration has not so far been attempted in any case.

Circuit Work.

To Circuit Work has been devoted about four months of each year, while excavation has been carried on under immediate supervision during about eight months. For the management of the labour force the Archæological Commissioner has had from time to time Assistants. These, being poorly paid, never remained long; and since June, 1895, he has had none.§ The Archæological Commissioner has employed three skilled draughtsmen for surveys, and, for the mechanical work connected with copying inscriptions, a skilled overseer. He has himself undertaken the necessary photography.

* *Mahāvamsa* XXXIX., 10, 14.

† Condensed from Sessional Paper I., 1899.

‡ Archæological Commissioner, No. 196 of March 20, 1897.

§ Don M. de Z. Wickremasinghe, 1891–1892; G. Hawkins, 1893; M. F. Maxfield, 1894; F. G. Bosanquet, 1895 (January to June).

Results.

The Committee think that the above system has been proved by its results to be a good system; and further, that the results hitherto obtained are a good return for the labour and money expended.

The monuments brought to light consist chiefly of very ancient buildings often adorned with elaborate and varied carvings, besides statues and inscribed pillars, slabs, and panels. These monuments add very appreciably to knowledge of the past history of the Island, of the institutions of Buddhism, and of the phases of art. The value of this information is not merely that which would attach to the isolated records of the antiquities of a small Island, but is to be estimated in its bearing on the results of similar researches in India, with which, alike in history, in religious institutions, and in art, the relations of Ceylon have been close and continuous.

(ii.) Prosecution of the Survey.

The Committee therefore recommend the vigorous prosecution of the Archæological Survey of Ceylon on the system of exploration and excavation hitherto pursued, with only such modifications as are necessary to increase its efficiency.

The Committee do not recommend any development of the undertaking beyond what can be directly supervised by Mr. Bell.

Assistant Archæological Commissioner.

Mr. Bell has recommended* the appointment of an Assistant Archæological Commissioner, who, as well as both helping him and acting for him in case of absence, should be trained to be hereafter his successor. He suggests that a junior member of the Civil Service should be selected for this post.

This has not appeared to the Committee a practicable course. They do not think it practical to look, in so limited a list of names as that of the younger Civil Servants, for one who would have both the qualifications and the inclination essential for such an office.

Labour Assistant.

Efficiency has been hitherto needlessly limited by the Archæological Commissioner having to give much personal time and attention to directing, &c., field work. The Committee recommend the addition to the staff of a Labour Assistant (European).

Epigraphy.

The Archæological Commissioner considers an "Epigraphia Zeylanica" (the publication in full with facsimiles and translations of a large selection of the inscriptions), to be a branch of the Archæological Survey extremely important, and urges that it ought, as in India, to be carried out *pari passu* with the work of survey and excavation.

The Committee advise the undertaking, provided that the expense can be kept within the limits of the vote.

The Committee adopts Mr. Bell's suggestion that Mr. Don M. de Zilva Wickremasinghe be appointed to do the Epigraphical work in England, and that B. Gunasekara, Mudaliyâr, Chief Translator to Government, be instructed to verify, or revise, Mr. Wickremasinghe's conclusions.

Larger Vote.

Should the Archæological Commissioner be in a position to enter upon more extended exploration, the Committee recommend a more liberal vote to be strictly devoted to the employment of an increased labour force.

The vote should not exceed Rs. 40,000 a year. Mr. Bell's salary and allowance should be treated separately.

Preservation of Ruins.

The Committee strongly recommend that where the work of exploration, or excavation, on any site is completed, it should not be allowed to lapse into jungle. Provision should be made for its careful preservation.

Duration of the Survey.

From the study of the historical works of the Island it appears that Anurâdhapura and Polonnaruwa were by far the most important seats of civilization during the periods when Sinhalese civilization and the royal power were at their highest; that Sîgiriya was the scene of great works for a short period; that Tissamahâráma was for centuries the capital of the Kingdom of Ruhuna in the south-east of the Island; and that at later dates Yâpahuwa, Dambadeniya, Kurunégala, and other places were seats of Government. It is with the first three of these that the Archæological Survey has already been chiefly engaged.

The Committee conclude, on the whole, that the Archæological Survey of Ceylon, if carried on under such conditions as at present, may possibly be completed within a period of from fifteen to twenty years.

F. T. HOBSON, Major-General.
R. S. COLOMBO.
W. T. TAYLOR.
F. MODDER.

* Archæological Commissioner, No. 428 of July 1, 1898

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